SURE BASES OF A GREATER SOUTH

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The New South, as contrasted with the South of ante-bellum times, is based upon the very oldest elements in the South, and is, therefore, not new at all, except as signifying a newly understood South. The words "New South" merely describe the application of man's transforming energy to opportunities that have lain dormant since time began. Looked at in this way, the New South is seen to rest upon the unrecognized labors of the surveyor, the hydrographer, the geologist; for these have brought into light the sure bases of greatness. To prove the development which must come to the South, when its natural possibilities are more correctly understood within the South and outside of it, is the purpose of this prefatory statement; leaving the articles elsewhere in this volume to give the details of specific accomplishments.

There are certain natural gifts belonging to the South which when understood in their total significance, indicate a very much greater South than the "New South" that has already attracted so much attention and aroused so much enthusiasm. These great gifts are: Coastline, navigable streams, water powers, minerals, forests, temperature and rainfall, and agricultural lands.

Coast Line

The meaning of a coast line, when satisfactorily indented, is ease of access to the commerce of the world. Viewed from this point it will be seen that the Southern States possess an enormous advantage over the other two-thirds of the United States; for the coast line of the Southern States is 3,007 miles while the coast line of the north Atlantic states is 888 miles, and of the Pacific coast 1,557 miles. When the indentations are considered the South is naturally far ahead of the north Atlantic and immeasureably ahead of the Pacific coast.

The natural advantages of coast line are already asserting their influence; for we are able to say that a southern port still holds the second position for exports among all ports of the United States—New Orleans, in 1900, and now a southern port that nine years ago was wrecked and rent by storm—the port of Galveston.

We are able to show that the exports along the gulf now exceed the exports of Philadelphia and Boston by ninety-three per cent, and they equal more than sixty-six and two-thirds per cent. of the total which belongs to the overshadowing port of New York. The tables of exports for 1900 and 1908 show that twenty-seven per cent growth in exports has taken place in New York, Philadelphia and Boston regarded together. During this same time the exports from southern ports handling more than $1,000,000 worth increased thirty-four per cent.

In the matter of imports—goods coming to America for distribution—we find that while the three great ports, Boston, Philadelphia, New York have increased twenty-seven per cent, the southern ports have increased 102 per cent. This may be looked at another way. In 1898 imports along the gulf were $13,062,729. In 1908 they had grown to $59,340,735, an increase of 354 per cent. In 1898 exports along the gulf were $201,847,700. In 1908 they had grown to $396,552,136, an increase of ninety-six per cent.

When we consider also that all this swing of commerce is taking place prior to the completion of the Panama Canal, and that the Panama Canal will help to pull southward every inter-oceanic movement, we must realize that southern ports will be on the very front door step of the world's future commerce. South America and the Pacific—by reason of their nearness—will be peculiarly available for southern growth.

Navigable Streams

A coast line adequately fed by navigable streams means, no matter how trivially used at present, an ultimate development of vast importance; for streams can be depended upon to carry bulky freights while the railroads, at present insufficient in the South, turn their powers towards the higher grades of freight needed within the growing South or shipped by it to other less favored states and countries.

The National Conservation Commission has reported that there

are in the United States navigable streams amounting to 26,410 miles. Of this mileage there is in the South 18,215.

Tributary to the Atlantic	4,567 miles
Tributary to the Gulf (excluding the Mississippi River)	5,212 miles
Tributary to the Mississippi River in southern territory	7,073 miles
The Mississippi River in southern territory	1,363 miles
	18,215 miles

This enormous total does not include a single mile of the Ohio, though it benefits the southern states through 900 miles. Neither does this total include any portion of the Missouri River. If the Mississippi be regarded as a feeder for gulf commerce the mileage should be:

Tributary to Atlantic	4,567 miles
Tributary to Gulf	19,124 miles

At present not a fraction of the advantage offered to the southern inland cities by navigable streams is utilized, but the day is coming when that utilization will be here, and when that day comes the streams of the South leading to the great and growing ports of the South will give the inland cities water-borne opportunities sufficient to make them leap more rapidly forward into commercial importance than in the marvelous twenty years just ending.

Water Powers

The possibilities of the South in the terms of water power are as disproportionately large, when compared with the other two-thirds of the Union, excepting the extreme northwest, as are those of coast-line and navigable streams. The most potent influence is the Southern Appalachian Range. Its vast upheaval makes it the greatest power-producing mountain range in the East, for it lies altogether in a region of plentiful and fairly-distributed rain-fall. The actual figures are indeterminate. However, Secretary Wilson, in a recent report, places it at 5,000,000 horse-power for the six high-water

months. Frank S. Washburn, the eminent hydro-electric engineer, thinks that this vast figure could be doubled by well-arranged storage basins. To give an inkling of what the development of these powers will mean, it is wise to refer to New England. That whole region has chained a little over one million horse-power. The Southern Appalachians contain nearly ten times as much potentially available; yet the manufactured products of New England at present equal the manufactured products of the whole South—66,000 square miles, with few raw materials, equaling the pigmy efforts of a giant spreading over one million square miles and rich in raw materials.

The day is coming when, through conservation impulses, this water will be used to drive the wheels of industry and of transportation throughout the South, thus indefinitely extending the life of power buried now in the coal fields of the South. If we study the statistics of the matter, we find that in no similar area of this country is there five million horse-power so conveniently arranged, so distinctly marked, or so near to extended plains and rolling country, where factories can be easily erected and the produce of the field can be carried to the factories. The South, with a potential ten million horse-power in the Appalachian Range, has the foothills all round it full of materials above ground or underground, simply waiting for the harnessing of that great power to make those foothills on every side a tremendous electrified manufacturing area. When, furthermore, it is considered that not one horse-power has been included above for the rivers falling into the western Gulf of Mexico or those tributary to the Mississippi on the west, the commercial importance of the South in aiding to extend the life of the national coal beds will be comprehended.

Minerals and Forests

The minerals of the South are worthy of serious consideration, as a guide to what awaits her in development. In oil barrels she has increased since 1880 from 179,000 to 74,128,019. In sulphur she has rapidly appropriated over 98 per cent of the country's product. While in coal resources all other states of the Union are exceeded by Wyoming, North Dakota, Montana, and Colorado, the coal fields of the South are peculiarly accessible to navigable streams—a privilege denied the western states mentioned above.

The headwaters of the Ohio tap rich coal regions in West Virginia and in effect make Pennsylvania a contributor of coal to the southern states by way of the Mississippi; the Alabama coal field, estimated to contain sixty-eight billion tons in its 8,000 square miles is tapped by the river system flowing by Mobile. Also since the southward tendency of railroad construction set in, every new line has served to place southern coal fields within commercial reach of the coast.

The coal possessions of southern states, according to the report of the National Conservation Commission, are stated below in millions of short tons:

Alabama	68,656
Arkansas	1,851
Georgia	981
Kentucky	103,844
Maryland	7,823
Missouri	39,854
North Carolina	200
Oklahoma	79,219
Tennessee	25,539
Texas	30,978
Virginia	22,414
West Virginia	230,389
Total	611,748 millions.

Add to coal the great iron riches of the Southern Appalachians where ore, coal and limestone are frequently in juxtaposition, then add to these the practical monopoly in phosphate rock, the complete monopoly in bauxite and asbestos, the leadership in Fuller's earth, in manganese, in sulphur and in some of the rarer minerals; then add to this the clays, the building and ornamental stones and last, the immense cement resources, near to navigable streams—then there comes into sight a certain unapproachable mineral advantage given by Nature to the South.

Against minerals which are irreplaceable, the South is still able to show ownership of forty-one per cent of the remaining forest area of the United States; a gift that is replaceable under proper impulses and extensible if used aright. The forest area has some broad details; the hard-wood area is largely confined to

the Appalachians; a mixed area takes a huge sweep around the Appalachians; and the long-leaf yellow pine area lies in another broad belt around the Gulf of Mexico.

Temperature and Precipitation

It may be safely said of warmth and precipitation, that warmth without rain produces a desert; that rain without warmth produces a frozen and forbidding area. The South combines more markedly than any other third of the Union a fine growing temperature and a copious yearly rainfall. The effect is clearly seen by those who wish to see.

If we go to the southern portion of Florida we will find tropical fruits. If we go in winter time to Florida and Texas we find northern vegetables growing and ready for winter marketing. If we follow up the Florida coast we find celery and lettuce growing for the consumption of New York City while New York City is shivering in zero temperature. Follow the whole vast agricultural area of the South, from the Everglades of Florida and from Brownsville, Texas, up to the Mason and Dixon line, and we have to declare that for agricultural range and possibility there is no area of the United States that can vie with the southern states. The isothermal lines, which have a very irregular range in the southern states, produce the anomaly, in the State of Alabama for instance, of wheat growing within a hundred miles of cotton; yet wheat is the great hope of the northwestern territory of Canada. We can put it down as an incontrovertible fact that the materials for both food and raiment coming out of the ground are all produceable in the extraordinary range of climate which belongs to the southern states.

Agricultural Lands

Though the South holds the American monopoly on cotton, her possibilities in that and all other agricultural lines have not yet been scratched. This can be plainly shown. There are 612,096,900 acres of land in the southern states. Of these less than twenty-five per cent are improved, or 145,185,999 acres. The more or less shiftless agriculture of the past is being rapidly supplanted in many regions by intelligent and intensive methods. This will shortly show itself by the South ceasing to depend on Western produce;

then living on what she raises herself, and then shipping out instead of shipping in. Of all the opportunities in the South the agricultural is among the greatest of the great.

This brief summary is not intended as exhaustive. It is a plain, brief statement of facts, accessible to all who wish to comprehend the coming development of the South. It makes no reference to any but the gifts of nature. The conclusion is unavoidable—nature has intended the South for a vast commercial development. Man within and outside the South has been slow to see this purpose of nature; it is now gradually unfolding and stimulating the man of the South to unwavering faith, and others toward investigation, and a new belief in a region of which they have been largely ignorant.